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ABSTRACT

The problems of studying families arise from the difficulty in studying systems in which there are multiple elements interacting with each other and with the child. This book attests to the growing sophistication of the conceptualization and measurement techniques for understanding family processes. Chapters in the first part of the book, "The Nature of Family Environments," present basic family processes and approaches for describing family dynamics. Chapters in the second section, "Families at Risk," looks at family processes in the service of studying at-risk families, and how risk factors such as poverty or developmental delay affect family dynamics which in turn affect children's developing competence. The chapters are: (1) "The Child and Its Family" (Michael Lewis and Candice Feiring); (2) "Family Dynamics at Dinner: A Natural Context for Revealing Basic Family Processes" (Sharon Landesman Ramey and Halldor Kr. Juliusson); (3) "Divergent Family Views and School Competence in Early Adolescence" (Candice Feiring and Michael Lewis); (4) "Effective Mothering in a Familial Context: A Nonhuman Primate Perspective" (Leonard A. Rosenblum); (5) "Family-Peer Relationships: Cognitive, Emotional, and Ecological Determinants" (Ross D. Parke and others); (6) "Everyday Experiences of Infants in Euro-American and Central American Immigrant Families" (Michael E. Lamb and others); (7) "Home Environment and Children's Development: Age and Demographic Differences" (Robert H. Bradley and Leanne Whiteside-Mansell); (8) "Family and Social Influences on the Development of Child Competence" (Arnold J. Sameroff and others); (9) "Differentiating Developmental Risk Levels for Families in Poverty: Creating a Family Typology" (Craig T. Ramey, Sharon Landesman Ramey, and Robin Gaines Lanzi); (10) "The Relations among Domestic Violence, Peer Relationships, and Academic Performance" (Samia Dawud-Noursi, Michael E. Lamb, and Kathleen J. Sternberg); (11) "Coparenting Processes and Child Competence among Rural African-American Families" (Gene H. Brody, Douglas L. Flor, and Eileen Neubaum); (12) "Family Environmental Influences and Development: Illustrations from the Study of Undernourished Children" (Theodore D. Wachs); (13) "Child and Family Outcomes Over Time: A Longitudinal Perspective on Developmental Delays" (Barbara K. Keogh and others); (14) "Socialization of Cognition: A Family Focus" (Irving E. Sigel);

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and (15) "Synergies in the Families of Gifted Children" (Nancy M. Robinson).
Each chapter contains references. (DTH)

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